

CAPITAL

—for Salem, Oregon

River-carved city, green with leaf-light,
in you our civil law is born.
Beneath your rotunda that shoulders the sky, accord
calls us to set conflict aside.

Salem, we're speaking *Peace* each time
we say your name.
Salaam, shalom. At your site, our mapmakers place
a star's steady shine.

✧ Paulann Petersen

This poem was written for the 40 foot Peace Mosaic Mural
that now graces an outside wall of the Salem YMCA building
adjacent to the Oregon State Capitol.